

PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Awards \$12 Million to Municipalities to Prepare for Climate Change

71 Percent of Massachusetts Communities Now Enrolled in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

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BOSTON — The Baker-Polito Administration has awarded \$12 million in grants to municipalities across the Commonwealth to plan for and implement climate change resilience projects through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program.

Of these funds, \$1.7 million was awarded to 65 communities to pursue a community-led planning process to identify vulnerabilities to climate change and priority actions. The remaining \$10.3 million was awarded to 34 communities that had completed the planning process and are ready to implement projects that build local resilience to climate change impacts.

“Massachusetts has been a national leader in addressing climate change, and these grants represent the Commonwealth’s largest funding commitment yet to improving community resilience to climate change impacts,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “Mitigating climate change and adapting to reduce risk and build resilience will foster stronger communities, protect residents and natural resources, and contribute to strong economic growth and innovation throughout the Commonwealth.”

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs’ MVP grant and designation program, which builds on Governor Baker’s Executive Order 569 as well as other administration-led state and local partnerships, provides communities with technical support, climate change data and planning tools to identify hazards and develop strategies to improve resilience. This funding is part of the largest release of climate change resilience funding for Massachusetts communities in state history.

“Our Administration is committed to partnering with cities and towns to develop practical and cost-effective solutions to build the climate-resilient communities of tomorrow,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. “We are proud that 71 percent of Massachusetts communities are working collaboratively with us through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, and look forward to enrolling all communities in this important program.”

Through the MVP Program, municipalities identify key climate-related hazards, vulnerabilities and strengths, develop adaptation actions, and prioritize next steps. Results of the workshops and planning efforts inform existing local plans, grant applications, and policies. Communities are then eligible for competitive MVP Action

Grant funding to implement priority on-the-ground projects. With this announcement, 71 percent of Commonwealth communities have received MVP Planning Grants, while 70 climate change resilience projects have received MVP Action Grants.

“The record participation in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program underscores the real need for climate-smart solutions that promote strong local economies while reducing risks and avoiding future costs,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides.** “The Baker-Polito Administration is committed to supporting municipalities in getting this work off the ground through the ResilientMA legislation, which would provide a new and sustained funding source for climate resilience projects.”

The following communities will receive funding to complete the MVP planning process in 2019:

Municipality	Region	Total Award
Agawam	Pioneer Valley	\$24,000
Aquinnah	Cape & Islands	\$25,000
Ashland	Boston Metro	\$20,000
Athol	Central	\$53,000
Attleboro	Southeast	\$32,000

Avon	Boston Metro	\$46,500
Barre	Central	\$20,000
Becket	Berkshires	\$27,000
Bedford	Boston Metro	\$22,000
Belmont	Boston Metro	\$31,000
Blandford	Pioneer Valley	\$20,000
Dennis	Cape & Islands	\$20,000
Douglas	Central	\$15,000
Dudley	Central	\$15,000
East Longmeadow	Pioneer Valley	\$20,000
Fairhaven	Southeast	\$55,000
Fitchburg	Central	\$102,000
Gardner	Central	\$34,000
Goshen/Chesterfield/	Pioneer Valley	\$27,000

Cummington/Worthington

Great Barrington	Berkshires	\$27,000
Groton	Central	\$22,000
Hadley	Pioneer Valley	\$15,000
Halifax	Southeast	\$15,000
Hamilton	Northeast	\$15,000
Hanson	Southeast	\$27,000
Harwich	Cape & Islands	\$20,000
Lancaster	Central	\$20,000
Lenox	Berkshires	\$27,000
Leverett	Pioneer Valley	\$27,000
Malden	Boston Metro	\$38,000
Maynard	Boston Metro	\$15,000
Medway	Boston Metro	\$15,000

Merrimac	Boston Metro	\$15,000
Middleborough	Southeast	\$22,000
Middleton	Northeast	\$27,000
Milton	Boston Metro	\$29,374
Needham	Boston Metro	\$33,000
Norfolk	Boston Metro	\$15,000
Orange	Pioneer Valley	\$20,000
Pepperell	Northeast	\$37,500
Plainville	Southeast	\$20,000
Plympton	Southeast	\$20,000
Royalston	Central	\$36,727
Seekonk	Southeast	\$27,000
Shirley	Central	\$20,000
Southborough	Boston Metro	\$22,000

Stoughton	Boston Metro	\$26,000
Sunderland	Pioneer Valley	\$27,000
Templeton	Central	\$15,000
Tewksbury	Northeast	\$28,000
Tyngsborough	Northeast	\$34,000
Watertown	Boston Metro	\$73,760
Wellesley	Boston Metro	\$25,000
Wendell	Pioneer Valley	\$20,000
West Newbury	Northeast	\$25,000
West Springfield	Pioneer Valley	\$31,000
Westborough	Central	\$20,000
Westford	Northeast	\$36,000
Weston	Boston Metro	\$26,500
Whately	Pioneer Valley	\$20,000

Williamsburg	Pioneer Valley	\$20,000
Windsor	Berkshires	\$27,000
Total		\$1,690,361

The following communities were awarded Action Grants in 2019:

Applicant	Project Title	Recommended funding
Boston	Moakley Park - Resilience Preliminary Design, Technical Analysis, and Pre-Permitting	\$1,500,000
Belchertown	Enhancing Water Supply Reliability: Resilient Water Storage and Water Conservation Planning	\$223,513
Braintree	Armstrong Dam and Ames Pond Dam Removal - Final Design and Permitting	\$90,000
Brockton	Integrated Water Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment and Economic Development Plan for Climate Resiliency	\$312,615
Cambridge	Completing a watershed-wide analysis to optimize and coordinate regional stormwater management in the Mystic River Watershed	\$350,000
Cohasset & Scituate	Mapping Storm Tide Pathways in Scituate and Cohasset: Assessing Coastal Vulnerability to Storms and Sea Level Rise	\$112,668

Concord	Climate Action and Resilience Plan	\$100,095
Concord	Reforestation and Tree Resilience	\$150,000
Dedham	Dedham Climate Action and Resilience Plan	\$185,895
Deerfield	Reducing Flooding Vulnerability in Deerfield	\$278,023
Devens	Devens Climate Action & Resilience Plan	\$142,170
Duxbury	Climate Change Flood Vulnerability Assessment/Adaptation Planning	\$131,712
Edgartown	Climate Change Flood Vulnerability Assessment/Adaptation Planning	\$90,035
Essex	Impacts of future storminess, greater wave energy, and increased sediment transport along Castle Neck and into Essex Bay: Essex, MA	\$190,349
Falmouth	Coastal Resiliency Planning for the Surf Drive Area	\$74,787
Falmouth	Coonamessett River Restoration Project: Construction of Phase 2	\$760,000
Mattapoisett	Pine Island Pond Watershed Lands Project	\$960,000
Medford	Flood Mitigation Strategy Feasibility Analysis and	\$93,529

Conceptual Design

Millbury	Armory Village Green Infrastructure Project	\$1,000,000
Nantucket	Designed for Adaptation	\$78,000
Northampton	Protecting Downtown: Northampton's Flood Control Levees	\$315,000
Pittsfield	Churchill Brook and West Street Culvert Replacement Project	\$814,524
Rehoboth	Culvert and Green Infrastructure Concept Design and Dam Resiliency Assessment	\$119,622
Salem	Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Management in City Projects	\$320,861
Salisbury	Resilient Ring's Island: Preventing a Neighborhood from Being Stranded by Flooding	\$157,500
Sandwich	Communicating the Local Benefits of a Resilient Coast	\$46,795
Southwick	Klaus Anderson Road/Johnson Brook Road-Stream Crossing Redesign, Floodplain Restoration and Green Stormwater Management	\$128,056
Spencer	Green Infrastructure Implementation in Downtown Spencer, Mechanic Street Parking Lot	\$370,492

Springfield	Community Resilience Through Urban Forestry: Improving Emergency Response and Environmental Conditions in Springfield Massachusetts	\$315,000
Uxbridge	Integrated Water Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Resiliency Plan	\$288,904
Walpole	Culvert Assessment and Green Infrastructure Survey	\$166,496
Westport	Assess and Plan for Climate Threats to East Beach Corridor	\$75,000
Winthrop	Climate Resilient Land Use	\$99,740
Woburn	Horn Pond Brook Improved Fisheries Habitat and Flood Control	\$235,355
Wrentham	Eagle Dam Removal	\$46,000
Total		\$10,322,736

“Climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience is a top priority for the Massachusetts State Senate. The imminent threat of climate change increases the potential for extreme weather events such as drought and flooding, making preparedness an important environmental, public safety, and public health issue for cities and towns across the Commonwealth,” **said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland).**

“Resilience measures must continue to be a significant part of our municipal planning efforts, and so we appreciate the Administration’s support of our municipalities’ ongoing efforts to protect residents and natural resources using scientific data and cutting-edge technology.”

“Adapting to climate change in a proactive way is important, but it’s a relatively new spending priority for cities and towns,” **said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester)**. “These grants will make a big difference in helping them to innovate, lead, and develop the momentum to take effective actions that build resilience and sustainability for today and tomorrow.”

“It is crucial that our communities have the resources and planning in place to deal with these weather related events that affect all aspects of communal life,” **said State Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture**. “I want to congratulate the towns of Spencer, Barre, Athol, and Templeton for their proactive approach and receiving this grant and I look forward to working with these communities as they implement their projects.”

“The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program represents a proactive approach to helping communities across Massachusetts address the unique challenges posed by climate change,” **said House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-North Reading)**. “With this grant funding, more cities and towns will be able to develop and implement resiliency plans to protect both residents and infrastructure from the impacts of climate change.”

“Oftentimes, the conversation regarding climate change adaptation concerns our coastal communities, but as we have seen, cities and towns across the Commonwealth are facing climate-related hazards,” **said State Representative Smitty Pignatelli (D-Lenox), House Chair of the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture**. “I am thankful to the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, and the work of Secretary Theoharides and the entire Baker-Polito Administration for their commitment towards helping all of the Commonwealth have a funding source to aid in resiliency projects.”

Governor Baker filed the [**Resilient MA legislation**](#)

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to support municipalities and help protect Massachusetts residents, communities, economy, natural resources and infrastructure from the adverse effects of climate change, through an increase in the excise on real estate transfers to fund a substantial and

sustained investment in climate change adaptation through programs like MVP. The revenue would be directed towards investments in resilient infrastructure to help make communities safer, keep vital services online, reduce the long-term costs of climate-related risks and protect the value of property across the Commonwealth. The proposal is estimated to generate \$1.3 billion over 10 years which would be deposited into the Commonwealth's Global Warming Solutions Trust Fund to support municipalities and regional municipal partnerships through loans, grants and technical assistance to implement priority adaptation projects.

The MVP program implements Executive Order 569, which established an integrated strategy for climate change adaptation across the Commonwealth. Local climate change vulnerabilities and actions identified through the MVP program inform the [Statewide Hazard Mitigation and Adaptation Plan](https://resilientma.com/) (<https://resilientma.com/>) – a blueprint to protect residents, communities, and local economies. The funding available through the MVP program builds upon the Baker-Polito Administration's continued commitment to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

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